

# Soldiers on the Move. Legio V Macedonica's Tile Stamps and the Deployment of Vexillations in the 2nd-4th centuries AD

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**Abstract:** From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, various literary and epigraphic sources talk about the deployment of vexillations of the Fifth Macedonian Legion. For the history of the movements of the soldiers of the Fifth Macedonian Legion, we should combine the data from literary sources with three different epigraphic *corpora*: firstly, the epigraphic mentions of the vexillations of this legion in inscriptions containing the careers of some officials or officers, secondly, the data offered by votive or funerary inscriptions regarding soldiers grouped in settlements other than the garrison locations, and thirdly, the distribution of the tile and brick stamps with the abbreviated name of the legion. The history of this legion could be split into four main stages, according to the garrison locations: Oescus I (1<sup>st</sup> c. AD-106 AD), Troesmis (106-170 AD), Potaissa (170-271 AD), and Oescus II (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> c. AD). Generally, tile stamps are considered minor epigraphic sources and are often neglected by the mainstream historical discourse. In spite of their minor importance, their chronological value and their distribution, the preference for certain types of stamps in each of the garrison sites and in each historical era, allow the tracing of the collective movements of soldiers in connection with the campaigns of the emperors or with missions in newly conquered or partially controlled territories.

**Keywords:** Legio V Macedonica, tile stamps, vexillations, epigraphy, military history

**Rezumat:** Diferite surse literare și epigrafice din secolele I-IV p. Chr. vorbesc despre deplasarea unor vexilații din legiunea V Macedonica. Pentru istoria deplasărilor soldaților legiunii V Macedonica, trebuie să combinăm datele din sursele literare cu

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trei *corpora* epigrafice distincte: în primul rând, mențiunile epigrafice ale vexilațiilor acestei legiuni în inscripții conținând carierele unor oficiali sau ofițeri, în al doilea, datele oferite de inscripțiile votive și funerare despre soldați grupați în alte așezări decât locurile de garnizoană și, în al treilea, distribuția țiglelor și cărămidizilor ștampilate cu numele abreviat al legiunii. Istoria acestei legiuni poate fi împărțită în patru etape diferite, în funcție de locurile de garnizoană: Oescus I (sec. I-106 p. Chr.), Troesmis (106-170 p. Chr.), Potaissa (170-271 p. Chr.) și Oescus II (sec. III-IV p. Chr.). În general, ștampilele tegulare sunt considerate izvoare epigrafice minore și adesea sunt neglijate de discursul istoric principal. În ciuda importanței lor minore, valoarea lor cronologică și distribuția în spațiu, preferința pentru anumite tipuri de ștampile în fiecare loc de garnizoană și în fiecare epocă, permit reconstituirea deplasărilor colective ale soldaților în relație cu campaniile împăraților ori cu misiuni în teritorii nou cucerite sau doar parțial controlate.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** Legio V Macedonica, ștampile tegulare, vexilații, epigrafie, istorie militară

From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, various literary and epigraphic sources talk about the deployment of vexillations from the Fifth Macedonian Legion<sup>56</sup>. During its long history, the legion was garrisoned at Oescus (Moesia Inferior), Troesmis (Moesia Inferior), Potaissa (Dacia Porolissensis), and again at Oescus, this time in Dacia Ripensis<sup>57</sup>. From these garrisons, soldiers traveled individually or collectively. Traces of their movements are marked by stone inscriptions (votive altars or funerary monuments) and sometimes by stamps on construction materials, like bricks and tiles<sup>58</sup>. We have to take into account the elementary fact that bricks and tiles could travel by themselves, as reused materials, without the help of the soldiers<sup>59</sup>. This is the case of stray finds of tegular material in small amounts around the main garrison locations<sup>60</sup>. However, sometimes legionary soldiers *in vexillatione* act like a Bauvexillatio, a building detachment, and produce building material, bricks and tiles stamped with the unit's symbols and monograms on the spot.

One tile stamp should not be enough as a source to prove that the troop was present in a certain fort. For the history of the movements of the

<sup>56</sup> Saxer 1967, 9, 12, 19-20, 41, 46, 52-53, 56, 62, 90, 93.

<sup>57</sup> Van de Weerd 1907, 9-107; Ritterling 1925, 1572-1586; Bărbulescu 1987, 15-33; Matei-Popescu 2010, 35-75; Petolescu 2021, 105-132.

<sup>58</sup> Kurzmann 2006.

<sup>59</sup> Marcu 2010, 214.

<sup>60</sup> Bărbulescu 1987, 49; Nemeti 2022, 133, 135.

soldiers from the Fifth Macedonian Legion, we should combine the data from literary sources with three different epigraphic *corpora*: firstly, the epigraphic mentions of the vexillations of this legion in inscriptions containing the careers of some officials or officers, secondly, the data offered by the votive or funerary inscriptions regarding soldiers grouped in settlements other than the garrison locations, and thirdly, the distribution of the tile and brick stamps with the abbreviated name of the legion.

There are some major events that the soldiers of the Fifth Macedonian Legion participate in, mentioned by literary or numismatic sources<sup>61</sup>. From Josephus Flavius (Bell. Iud. II.18.9) we learn that there were soldiers from the Fifth Macedonian Legion in the army of Cestius Gallus<sup>62</sup>. In addition, for the year 70 AD, the same Josephus Flavius (V.1.6) as well as Tacitus (Hist.V.1) talk about the presence of this legion in the Jewish campaign of Emperor Titus<sup>63</sup>. Coins minted in Heliopolis (Syria) attest the presence of the legionaries from the V Macedonica and VIII Augusta legions in the Oriental wars of Septimius Severus and Philippus Arabs<sup>64</sup>.

Several inscriptions of historical relevance attest vexillations from the Fifth Macedonian Legion in Thracia during the time of Claudius (in the army of Q. Cornelius Valerianus, *praefectus vexillariorum in Thracia*<sup>65</sup>), in the Battle of Lugdunum in 197 AD (Ti. Claudius Claudianus, *praepositus vexillationum Daciscarum*)<sup>66</sup>, or in Poetovio during the reign of Gallienus as sole emperor (Flavius Aper, *praepositus*)<sup>67</sup>. There are also epigraphic data for the presence of vexillations in various outposts or linked to military campaigns. For example, during the time of Trajan, a vexillation from the Fifth Macedonian Legion is expressly attested in Tyras, on the northern shore of the Black Sea<sup>68</sup>. In the year 170 AD, for the expeditions of the Marcomannic Wars, a vexillation from the Moesian legions, I Italica and V Macedonica, was formed<sup>69</sup>. Under the Tetrarchy, some other vexillations are attested by a papyrus from Oxyrhynchus in Egypt (POxy 2950) and by an inscription from

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<sup>61</sup> Bărbulescu 1987, 16-20.

<sup>62</sup> Saxer 1967, 12.

<sup>63</sup> Saxer 1967, 19.

<sup>64</sup> Saxer 1967, 52-53.

<sup>65</sup> CIL II 3272, 2079.

<sup>66</sup> CIL VIII 7978, 5349.

<sup>67</sup> AE 1936, 54-57; Horovitz 1957, 333-338.

<sup>68</sup> AE 1990, 868.

<sup>69</sup> CIL III 14443.

Somovit in Bulgaria (Iulius Vibius)<sup>70</sup>. There are also some undated mentions of vexillations, probably belonging to the Moesian period, because the V Macedonica from Troesmis is associated with the XI Claudia or I Italica (Pl. II.3), which were encamped at Durostorum and Novae<sup>71</sup>.

From this picture of the legion's movement in four centuries of existence, sketched according to literary, numismatic and explicit epigraphic mentions of vexillations, one can mainly note the poverty of available information and the difficulties related to the chronology of the events. Could the tile stamps and their typo-chronology help us in this respect?

The tile and brick stamps with the name of the legions change really fast over time. Taking into account the epigraphic (*i.e.*, the abbreviation of the legion's name) and the stylistic criteria (the shape and decoration of the cartouche), the stamps could be organized into a typology. If the stamps are found in all three garrison locations, one may establish typological trees with chronological value, for example a repertory of tiles for Oescus I – Troesmis, one for Potaissa, and one for Oescus II. Each stock of stamps could be placed within a chronological frame, thanks to the identification of the garrison locations<sup>72</sup>. This chronology is pretty broad and if one takes into account the formal and stylistic evolution of the stamps in each garrison's repertory, and the relations between the types and variants associated in closed contexts (like rooms with a hypocaust system, sewers, etc.), it is possible to establish even broader chronological frames.

The stamps are a useful instrument for the study of soldiers' movements across the Empire, thanks to their chronological value<sup>73</sup>. Before we address the bulk of epigraphic data, we would like to start with an example. Fourteen tile stamps with the name of the Fifth Macedonian Legion were found in 2018 in the fortress of Apsaros, in the ancient Colchis (present-day Gonio, in Georgia), coming from the roof of a building interpreted as a *praetorium*. All the tile stamps are the products of the same stamp. The letter sequence runs like this: COH [.] LVMC⊥H⊥ (Pl. II.4)<sup>74</sup>. Although the reading is not totally clear, the abbreviation LVM connected with the letters COH or C for *cohors* is only encountered in the Oescus II repertory, on the stamps

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<sup>70</sup> AE 2001, 1732.

<sup>71</sup> CIL III 13586; AE 1995, 1348; CIL VI 41193.

<sup>72</sup> Grec 2000, 122-125.

<sup>73</sup> Grec 2000, 140-142.

<sup>74</sup> Karasiewicz-Szczypiorski, Mamuladze, Speidel 2021, 269-280.

from Variana, Romuliana, and Sucidava in Dacia Ripensis. Therefore, the roof tiles from Apsaros were stamped there by the soldiers detached from the Legio V Macedonica from Oescus during the Persian campaigns of Diocletian and Maximian or even later<sup>75</sup>.

In the following part, we will try to identify detachments of the Fifth Macedonian Legion in mission. According to Hunt's *Pridianum*, some soldiers were *in vexillatione*, some *in praesidio*, meaning the garrisons of minor fortifications<sup>76</sup>. It is difficult to establish the nature of the mission starting from stone inscriptions and tile stamps, but we can trace the movements of such a detachment in the Lower Danube area.

The history of this legion could be split into three main stages, according to the garrison locations. For the Oescus I stage (1<sup>st</sup> c. AD – 106 AD), there are stone inscriptions from Gigen<sup>77</sup>, but the tile stamp types are difficult to date. The types from the Trajanic *praesidia* on the Olt River and in Little Wallachia could therefore be assigned to the period when the legion was garrisoned at Troesmis<sup>78</sup>.

## TROESMIS

Tiles with the stamps of this legion, dating from when the legion was encamped in Dobroudja, were discovered at Troesmis (**Pl. I.1-3**)<sup>79</sup> and the rural area (Horia)<sup>80</sup>, Capidava<sup>81</sup>, Arrubium<sup>82</sup>, Dionogetia<sup>83</sup> and Noviodunum<sup>84</sup>. On the other hand, stone inscriptions attesting soldiers and veterans from the Fifth Macedonian Legion were found at Troesmis<sup>85</sup> and Tropaeum Traiani (one centurion and three *evocati*)<sup>86</sup>, at Tomis (twelve funerary inscriptions attesting one centurion, one *librarius*, several *milites* and *veterani*)<sup>87</sup>. One funerary

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<sup>75</sup> Karasiewicz-Szczypiorski, Mamuladze, Speidel 2021, 271-274.

<sup>76</sup> Fink 1958, 104, 107-108.

<sup>77</sup> CIL III 12348, 14415; ILB 1, 9, 10, 41, 47, 48, 52, 55, 56, 58.

<sup>78</sup> Doruțiu-Boilă 1990, 263.

<sup>79</sup> ISM V 211, 215 a-b, d; Chiriac, Bounegru 1973-1975, 97-99; Alexandrescu 2016, 245-246.

<sup>80</sup> ISM V 240 a-b.

<sup>81</sup> ISM V 54 a, b.

<sup>82</sup> ISM V 254 a-b.

<sup>83</sup> ISM V 261 a-b.

<sup>84</sup> ISM V 284.

<sup>85</sup> ISM V 135, 141, 143, 154, 155, 156, 158, 159, 160, 172, 174, 179, 185, 186, 188, 192, 194, 196, 201, 202, 203.

<sup>86</sup> CIL III 14214, 3 a-c, 10.

<sup>87</sup> AE 1963, 181; AE 1982, 846, 847; AE 1988, 1008; ISM II 140, 184, 192, 193, 226, 458, 466.

inscription is found at Histria<sup>88</sup>. Several other inscriptions are scattered through the province of Moesia Inferior, in several rural settlements like Gârliciu, Băneasa, Horia, Tulcea (*Aegyssus*), Independența, Mircea Vodă, Pliska, Razgrad, Riben, Izvoarele, *Sacidava*, Sinoe (*vicus Quintionis*), Rasova-Pescărie<sup>89</sup>. The distribution of the tiles and bricks and of inscriptions attesting soldiers and veterans does not match in any of these cases. One can presume the existence of a small garrison in the Greek city of Tomis, but a detachment is not expressly attested.

At the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD, soldiers from the Fifth Macedonian Legion are attested in several *praesidia* in the recently conquered territory or in a larger territory controlled by the Roman Empire. For example, all three categories of data show the presence of a detachment of soldiers on the northern shore of the Black Sea, at Bilhorod Dnistrovsky, the ancient Tyras<sup>90</sup>. Two honorific inscriptions attest a *vexillatio legionis V Macedonicae* during the reign of Trajan, when the governor of Moesia Inferior was Q. Pompeius Falco<sup>91</sup>. Another stone inscription attests a centurion of this legion<sup>92</sup>, meanwhile the tile stamps found there mention a *vexillatio Moesiae Inferioris* (soldiers from the legions I Italica, V Macedonica and XI Claudia) (Pl. II.3)<sup>93</sup>. There are also tile stamps with the abbreviated name of the Fifth Macedonian Legion belonging to the type I from Potaissa, LEGVM<sup>94</sup>. Emilia Doruțiu-Boilă has presumed that a small detachment from this legion led by a centurion and some *principales* was deployed there during the reign of Trajan, after the Dacian Wars<sup>95</sup>. The same explanation could be proposed for other bridgeheads on the northern shore of the Black Sea, where the tile stamps with the name of the legion were discovered, at Barboși (Pl. II.1)<sup>96</sup> and Orlovka<sup>97</sup>. The tile stamps from Barboși belong to the types Doruțiu-Boilă b (LEG V MAC) and c (LEG V MC), and therefore should be linked to the Troesmis period.

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<sup>88</sup> ISM I 276.

<sup>89</sup> ISM V 115; ISM IV 26; ISM V 239; AE 1991, 1386; ISM V 221; AE 1935, 70; AE 2004, 1262; ILB 215; AE 1977, 748; ISM I 336; CIL III 14443.

<sup>90</sup> Nicorescu 1937, 217-239; Doruțiu-Boilă 1990, 263.

<sup>91</sup> AE 1934, 112; AE 1990, 868.

<sup>92</sup> AE 1990, 869.

<sup>93</sup> AE 1925, 78.

<sup>94</sup> AE 1925, 77.

<sup>95</sup> Doruțiu-Boilă 1990, 265.

<sup>96</sup> AE 1939, 83; AE 1939, 33; AE 1974, 562 a; AE 1975, 738; Doruțiu-Boilă 1972, 57.

<sup>97</sup> Doruțiu-Boilă 1972, 59.

When the legion was part of Moesia Inferior's army, some soldiers were detached north of the Danube in key places like Stolniceni<sup>98</sup>, intended by D. Tudor as a sort of headquarters during the Dacian Wars, which later, from the beginning of Hadrian's reign onward, became the *praetorium* of the procurator of Dacia Inferior<sup>99</sup>. Here, one can find *tegulae* with the stamps of the *pedites singulares*, of the Legio V Macedonica, or combined stamps with the abbreviated names of the Moesian legions, V Macedonica, I Italica and XI Claudia<sup>100</sup>. The stamps of the *Legio V Macedonica* belong to the types Doruțiu Boilă a and c, therefore they are from the period when the legion was encamped at Troesmis<sup>101</sup>.

The excavations of M. Zahariade in the fort from Drajna de Sus uncovered many tile stamps (76) with the name of the Legio V Macedonica (Pl. II.2), belonging to the types Doruțiu-Boilă a and b with variants<sup>102</sup>. Clearly a Bauvexillatio of this legion participated in the building of this fort, together with the soldiers from Legio I Italica, Legio XI Claudia and those of the garrisoned unit, Cohors I Flavia Commagenorum. In Zahariade's opinion, a variant of the Legio V Macedonica stamps from Drajna de Sus are also found at Oescus, being in use during the Oescus I period<sup>103</sup>.

## POTAISSA

The main characteristics of the tile stamps from Potaissa are the short abbreviation of the legion's name and the presence of the fidelity epithets, like *pia*, *pia fidelis*, *Antoniniana*, *Severiana* and *Maximiniana* (Pl. III.3-5)<sup>104</sup>. Many tile stamps originating from Potaissa are to be found in central Transylvania<sup>105</sup>. Most of them are reused building material, spread around Turda during ancient or medieval times. The bricks and tiles with the stamp of the legion discovered at Moldovenesti<sup>106</sup>, Săndulești<sup>107</sup>, Copăceni<sup>108</sup>, Mihai

<sup>98</sup> AE 1966, 312 b; IDR II 557 a, 559.

<sup>99</sup> Tudor 1964 ; Tudor 1978, 33, 214, 270.

<sup>100</sup> IDR II 556–559.

<sup>101</sup> Alexandrescu 2016, 245-256.

<sup>102</sup> Zahariade, Dvorski 1997, 21-22.

<sup>103</sup> Zahariade, Dvorski 1997, 22.

<sup>104</sup> Grec 2000, 118-165; Nemeti 2017, 146-151; Nemeti 2019, 130-147; Nemeti 2020, 93-96; Nemeti 2022, 129-153.

<sup>105</sup> Szilágyi 1946, nr. I.7 - III. 46, pl. I.7 - III.46.

<sup>106</sup> CIL III 1630 f-g.

<sup>107</sup> CIL III 8066 h-i.

<sup>108</sup> CIL III 8066 k.

Viteazu<sup>109</sup>, Unirea<sup>110</sup>, Micești<sup>111</sup> or Bogata de Mureș<sup>112</sup> illustrate just the distribution of reused building material on the legion's territory during Roman times, or the recycled building material in the Middle Age or in the Modern Era<sup>113</sup>. The stamps belong to type VI Potaissa (LVM) (Pl. IV.1-5), but also to types I (LEGVM) (Pl. III.1), III and IV dated starting with the reign of Septimius Severus (LVMP, LVMPF) (Pl. III.3-4)<sup>114</sup>. Leaving aside the Oriental vexillations attested by epigraphic and numismatic sources, there were soldiers on the move inside the province of Dacia. A cluster of data, stone inscriptions, and a large quantity of stamped bricks indicate Drobeta on the Danube as a centre of the building activity of a detachment from Legio V Macedonica<sup>115</sup>. Several funerary monuments mentioning veterans from the Legio V Macedonica are known from Drobeta. We know a *veteranus* (Iulius Bassus)<sup>116</sup>, a *veteranus candidatus* (Aurelius Attelanus)<sup>117</sup>, but mostly officers and *optiones*. Maecius Domitius was a *centurio*<sup>118</sup>, C. Domitius Alexander a *signifer*<sup>119</sup>, M. Valerius Alexander a *strator consularis*<sup>120</sup>, C. Valerius Victorinus a *beneficiarius tribuni*<sup>121</sup>, and C. Iulius Melcidianus a *beneficiarius consularis*<sup>122</sup>. All these veterans could belong to the staff of a *vexillatio* detached here from Potaissa probably in the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD.<sup>123</sup> Four variants of the stamps belonging to type VI Potaissa (the short abbreviation LVM) were found at Drobeta (Pl. V.1-4), namely 148 tile stamps discovered in the Roman camps and in the civilian settlement<sup>124</sup>. Three of these variants correspond to a very similar stamp series discovered at Potaissa: two of them are known from the headquarters building and only one from within the baths. If we

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<sup>109</sup> CIL III 8966 g.

<sup>110</sup> CIL III 1630 h.

<sup>111</sup> AE 1993, 1327.

<sup>112</sup> CIL III 8966 d.

<sup>113</sup> Bărbulescu 1987, 49; Nemeti 2022, 133, 135.

<sup>114</sup> Nemeti 2017, 147-149.

<sup>115</sup> CIL III 8066 a; IDR II 99 a-I; Benea 1978, 201-202.

<sup>116</sup> IDR II 40.

<sup>117</sup> IDR II 67.

<sup>118</sup> IDR II 36.

<sup>119</sup> AE 2005, 1303.

<sup>120</sup> IDR II 38.

<sup>121</sup> IDR II 39.

<sup>122</sup> IDR II 41.

<sup>123</sup> Tocilescu 1902, 332-333; Nemeti, Marcu 2019, 102.

<sup>124</sup> Benea 1978, 200-202; IDR II 99.



add the recently reinterpreted retrograde stamp with the trapezoidal cartouche from the headquarters building<sup>125</sup>, we can reach the conclusion that the soldiers charged with the production of tiles and bricks at Potaissa worked in the fort of Drobeta as well.

Near Drobeta, in the Cerna River Valley, in the auxiliary fort of Mehadia, tile stamps of the Fifth Macedonian Legion, belonging to the types I Potaissa (LEGVM) and VI Potaissa (LVM) were discovered<sup>126</sup>. A double stamp, with the name of the Dacian legions, V Macedonica et XIII Gemina, could be a clue for the presence of a legionary vexillation in the fort<sup>127</sup>. Some of these tile stamps were drawn by Caryophilus and were published with the findspot Băile Mehadia (which probably stand for Băile Herculane)<sup>128</sup>. A brick from the baths' pavement was read by the same antiquarian as *vexillatio Daciarum*<sup>129</sup>. Several tile stamps were discovered scattered in the same area in Bersovia<sup>130</sup>, Hinova<sup>131</sup>, Gornea<sup>132</sup>, belonging to the types I and VI Potaissa. The tile stamps from Bersovia belong to the type IV Potaissa, with the abbreviation LVMPF, therefore dated from the joint reign of Septimius Severus and Caracalla onward<sup>133</sup>.

It is difficult to explain the presence of a few stamps belonging to the type VI Potaissa in forts like Răcari<sup>134</sup>, Bumbești – Jiu<sup>135</sup>, Bivolari<sup>136</sup> and Slăveni<sup>137</sup>. Recently published tile stamps from Slăveni show stylistic affinities with the types that are common at Potaissa<sup>138</sup>, and their presence there should probably be linked to the soldiers on the move during the wars from the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD.

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<sup>125</sup> Nemeti, Marcu 2020, 99-105.

<sup>126</sup> IDR III.1, 72 c, 100 b.

<sup>127</sup> IDR III.1, 102 a.

<sup>128</sup> IDR III.1, p. 98-99.

<sup>129</sup> IDR III.1, 73.

<sup>130</sup> IDR III.1, 51 c; AE 1912, 73 b.

<sup>131</sup> AE 1992, 1475.

<sup>132</sup> IGLR 426.

<sup>133</sup> Nemeti 2017, 147-149; Nemeti 2019, 143-144.

<sup>134</sup> IDR II 167 b, 522.

<sup>135</sup> IDR II 178.

<sup>136</sup> IDR II 579.

<sup>137</sup> IDR II 167 c.

<sup>138</sup> Bondoc 2021, 23-44.

## OESCVS II

The types of tile stamps for the later period of the existence of the legion, when the Fifth Macedonica was part of the army of Dacia Ripensis, are easily recognizable<sup>139</sup>. The abbreviation of the legion's name is often associated with a toponym like Oescus and Varinia<sup>140</sup>, or the mention of the *cohortes*, sometimes with the numeral, or the abbreviated function of the commanding officer (PP for *praepositus*, PPRIP *praepositus ripae*) (Pl. VI.1-5)<sup>141</sup>. The inscriptions are then longer than the previous ones. The toponyms indicate two production centres of the building material, Oescus and Varinia, on the Danube, near Oescus. The toponym should probably be identified as Variana from *Itinerarium Antonini* and *Notitia Dignitatum*, present-day Leskovec<sup>142</sup>. Tile stamps produced in this period are spread across a small region on the Danubian frontier of Dacia Ripensis. Most of the finds came from Oescus and Sucidava<sup>143</sup>, but some are also known from Ratiaria<sup>144</sup>, Romuliana (Gamzigrad)<sup>145</sup>, Transdrobeta<sup>146</sup>, Vidin<sup>147</sup> and Romula<sup>148</sup>. The distribution of the tiles in the regions shows the new strategy of the Late Roman army, the fragmentation of the legion into smaller units and the deployment of soldiers in small detachments in outposts along the Danube, the so-called *riparienses*. Military campaigns lead the soldiers of this legion to distant places: to Egypt against the usurpers (as the *Notitia Dignitatum* shows)<sup>149</sup> or to Apsaros in Colchis, as indicated by the stamps found there<sup>150</sup>.

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The repertory and chronological framing of all the stamps of the Fifth Macedonian Legion throughout its existence is something to be done in the future. Generally, these stamps are considered minor epigraphic sources and are often neglected by the mainstream historical discourse. However, their chronological value and their distribution, the preference for certain types in

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<sup>139</sup> Bondoc 2009, 76, 79-80, 117-118.

<sup>140</sup> AE 1908, 82; Tudor 1938, 412-413.

<sup>141</sup> ILD 118; IGLR 290; Bondoc 2006, 239.

<sup>142</sup> Zahariade 2014-2015, 122.

<sup>143</sup> CIL III 8066 b, c; AE 1930, 90, 91, 94, 95; AE 1944, 66; AE 1976, 582 a, b; AE 2003, 1527.

<sup>144</sup> AE 1903, 129,1; AE 1984, 742 b1, 2, 4.

<sup>145</sup> AE 2002, 1237 a 1-7.

<sup>146</sup> AE 1998, 1115 a-b.

<sup>147</sup> AE 1938, 105.

<sup>148</sup> AE 1914, 121.

<sup>149</sup> Not. Dign. Or. VII, XVIII.

<sup>150</sup> Karasiewicz-Szczygiorski, Mamuladze, Speidel 2021, 269-280.

each of the garrison sites and in each historical era allow the tracing of collective movements of soldiers in connection with the campaigns of the emperors or with missions to control newly conquered or partially controlled territories.

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### **Illustrations:**

- Pl. I. Stamps from Troesmis – Iglița (1-3)
- Pl. II. Stamps from Bărboși (1), Drajna de Sus (2), Tyras – Billhorod Dniistrovsky (3) and Apsaros – Gonio (4).
- Pl. III. Stamps from Potaissa – Turda, various types (1-5).
- Pl. IV. Stamps from Potaissa – Turda, type VI (1-5).
- Pl. V. Stamps from Drobeta – Turnu Severin (1-4).
- Pl. VI. Stamps from Sucidava – Celei (1-5).

1 LEG·V̄·MC

2 LEG·V̄·MC

3 LE V̄ M̄<sup>c</sup>

Pl. I

1 

2 

3 

4 

1



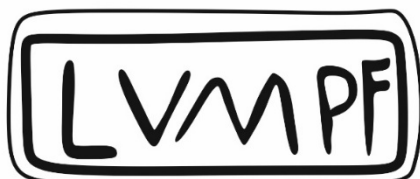
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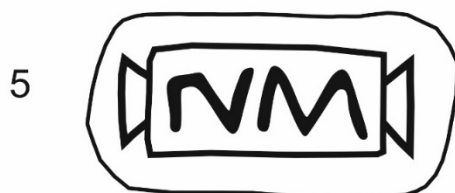
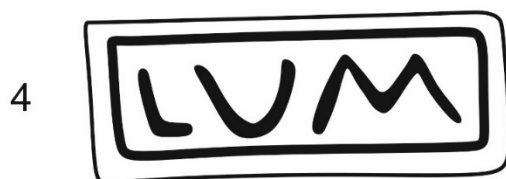


5



Pl. III





Pl. IV



Pl. V

1

LVM OES

2

Q M V

3

LVM VAR

4

VARINIA

5

VARIDAL

Pl. VI